

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH TO  
THE FALMOUTH AND TRURO PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY FOR  
THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1956.





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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
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THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st., 1956.

To:-

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
FALMOUTH AND TRURO PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Authority,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual report for the year ended December 31st 1956.

During the quarter ended December 28th two cases of notifiable disease were reported, the first since July 1955. One case, that of Pneumococcal Meningitis, died on board and was diagnosed by post-mortem examination. The second one of mild Poliomyelitis, non-paralytic, was admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Truro.

During the year one hundred and eight visits to vessels for urgent medical reasons and inspection were carried out. There have been no cases of unusual or outstanding interest.

Your Inspector has carried out his duties very satisfactorily and I should like to state how your Medical Officer has been pleased with the help and co-operation of all concerned, such as H.M. Customs Officers, Shipping Agents and Boatmen, not forgetting Land's End Radio Station, in the carrying out of his duties.

I remain, Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient Servant,

A. Cecil Dick

M.R.C.S. Eng. L.R.C.P. Lond.



1. STAFF

TABLE A

Name of Officer	Nature of appointment	Date of appointment	Qualifications	Any other appointments held
D. HALL	Clerk	21 February, 1952	-	-
J. W. MORTON	Treasurer	28 December, 1951	-	Manager, Lloyds Bank, Falmouth.
A.C.DICK	Port Medical Officer of Health	2 February, 1945	M.R.C.S.Eng. L.R.C.P.Lond.	-
H.R.T.DEVLIN	Deputy Port Medical Officer of Health	1 April, 1955	M.B., B.Ch., Dublin	-
J. JACKETT	Port Sanitary Inspector	1 October, 1940	Cert.R.San.I.	-

Address and telephone number of }  
the Medical Officer of Health }

17 Boscowen Road, Falmouth.  
Tel.Falmouth 226.



II. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT  
DURING THE YEAR

TABLE B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number inspected		Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector	
Foreign Ports	465	1,341,813	98	401	None
Coastwise	823	1,284,368	10	832	None
Total	1,288	2,626,181	108	1,233	None



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III. CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE  
DURING THE YEAR

TABLE C

Passenger Traffic.....	(Number of passengers INWARDS	Nil
	(Number of passengers OUTWARDS	Nil
Cargo Traffic..	(Principal IMPORTS	General Cargo, including food produce, coal cement, timber, oil and petroleum spirit
	(Principal EXPORTS	None.

PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrive :-

Abidjan, Amsterdam, Antwerp, Aruba, Augusta, Baltimore,  
Benasif, Boca Chica, Bremen, Bergen, Buenos Aires, Bordeaux,  
British Columbia, Burriana, Boulogne, Brest, Caen, Calais,  
Casablanca, Copenhagen, Cork, Cuba, Curacao, Cuxhaven,  
Cyprus, Dieppe, Dakar, Dunkirk, Fecamp, Freetown, Frederik-  
sund, Flushing, Funchal, Georgetown, Ghent, Gibraltar,  
Gothenburg, Gydnsk, Halifax N.S., Hamburg, Hernosand,  
Hanswert, Holden, Houston, Honfleur, Huelva, Istanbul, Kiel,  
Kolka, Kenui, Le Havre, Lisbon, Lulia, Malta, Men-a-Ahmadi,  
Mombassa, Morlaix, Nantes, New York, Nicaragua, Norfolk V.,  
Oslo, Port Augusta, Ponta Delagada, Quebec, Rotterdam,  
Rieder, Rouen, Singapore, Stettin, Spezia, Shanghai,  
Stockholm, St.Malo, Tampico, Toronto, Treport, Trinidad,  
Texas Vancouver, Wormerver, Ymuiden, Zeebrugge.

IV. INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

There is no Barge traffic in the Port.

V. WATER SUPPLY

No Change



VI. PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952

No Change

VII. SMALLPOX

All cases or suspected cases of smallpox may be sent to Lee Mill Hospital, Near Ivybridge, Devon.

Ambulances for the transport of such cases would be supplied by the Cornwall County Council who are also responsible for the vaccinal state of the ambulance crew.

The smallpox consultants available are -

Dr.D.F.Johnstone,  
The Scott Isolation Hospital, Plymouth.  
(Tel.Plymouth 4311 and 61437).

Dr.W.A.Lister,  
7, The Crescent, Plymouth.

Specimens for laboratory diagnosis would be sent to The Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, London, N.W.9. (Tel.Colindale 7041).

VIII. VENEREAL DISEASE

No Change.



IX. CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS

TABLE D

Category	Disease	Number of cases during the year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports.	Pneumococcal Meningitis. Mild Polio-myelitis	-	2	2
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	-	-	-	-
Cases landed from other ships	-	-	-	-

X. OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS

No case of Malaria has been observed during the past year.

XI. MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE

No ships infected with or suspected for plague have arrived during the past year.

XII. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

Procedure for inspection of ships for rats

All ships arriving from foreign ports are inspected by the Port Sanitary Inspector and a thorough search is made for indications of rodent infestation. Where indications of rodent infestation are found traps are



set and in cases where the deratting certificates has expired and indications of rodent infestation are found, the vessel is ordered to be fumigated.

Arrangements for the Bacteriological or Pathological Examination of Rodents

Arrangements have been made for the bacteriological and pathological examination of rodents at the Royal Infirmary, Pathological Department, Truro.

No rodents have been sent for examination during the year.

Arrangements for deratting ships and methods used

Deratting of ships is normally carried out entirely by fumigation by hydrogen cyanide. The work is carried out by a commercial contractor, Fumigation Services Ltd. of London.

Progress in the rat-proofing of ships

Vessels are found to be largely rat-proof.

TABLE E  
RODENTS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR  
IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

Category	Number
Black rats	-
Brown rats	18
Sent for examination	-
Infected with plague	-



TABLE F

DERATTING CERTIFICATES AND DERATTING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES ISSUED  
DURING THE YEAR FOR SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

No. of Deratting Certificates issued			Number of Deratting Exemption Certificates Issued	Total Certificates issued
After fumigation with HCN	After trapping	After poisoning		
1	2	3	4	5
1	-	-	3	73
3				76



XIII. INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

TABLE G

Inspection of Notices

Nature and Number of Inspections	Notices Served		Result of serving notices
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
General Inspections	1,233	Nil	Nil
Re-visits	862	Nil	Nil
Total	2,095	Nil	Nil

XIV. PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL-FISH)  
REGULATIONS 1934 and 1948

No Change.

XV. MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS

Medical Inspectors of Aliens holding Warrants of Appointment

Dr. Albert Cecil Dick, Port Medical Officer of Health.

Other Staff

None.

Organisation of Works and Nature and Amount of Alien Traffic

Falmouth is an approved Port under the Aliens Order for the landing of aliens but there is little or no aliens traffic in the Port. In the event, however, of aliens arriving arrangements would be made for medical inspection to be carried out on board. It has not been thought necessary to make any special arrangements for providing accommodation for medical inspection and examination ashore.

XVI. MISCELLANEOUS

No Change.



INSPECTOR'S REPORT

To:

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
FALMOUTH AND TRURO PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1956.

SHIP INSPECTION

During the year 1,233 vessels were inspected and 94 of them were found to have nuisances or defects on board.

Vessels on entering the Port are visited as soon as possible and enquiries made concerning the health of the crew, the occurrence of any sickness during the voyage, the condition of the water supply tanks and bilges and the presence of animals or parrots on board. The Deratting or Deratting Exemption Certificate is inspected and if found to be in order I am accompanied by a Ship's Officer to examine the sanitary condition of the vessel. During the inspection I point out any defects or nuisances and suggest the remedy to be adopted. The shipping companies are always ready and willing to remedy any such defects or nuisances which have been brought to their notice.

It was not necessary to serve any statutory notices. Verbal and informal notices were given, as a result of which all the nuisances and defects were remedied before the vessels left the Port again. 862 re-visits were made in connection with nuisances and defects, rat destruction etc.

Dirt, Vermin and other Conditions Prejudicial to Health

Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health and structural defects caused through wear and tear such as dirty and/or verminous crews' quarters, foul water closets, choked scuppers, dirty food and clothes lockers accounted for the majority of the nuisances.



Various methods are adopted to free the vessels from vermin, disinestation being carried out by pressure spraying an insecticide, fumigation by Hydrogen Cyanide, Gammoxine or D.D.T. The latest method is a resin lacquer incorporating an insecticide applied to the appropriate places preferably by means of a fine spray gun. The property of the lacquer is to extrude on to its surface minute crystals of the insecticide in the form of a bloom. The lacquer has a long life under normal conditions, is hard and resistant to washing soda and therefore can be washed repeatedly which assists in promoting further blooms of the insecticide. Practical experience of this method has shown that a complete clearance of vermin is obtained within a period of about 4 weeks and the insecticide remains active up to two years.

#### Structural Defects caused through Wear and Tear

Defective port frames and linings, broken glasses, defective water closets, leaky deck heads and defective heating apparatus, bunks and lockers were responsible for the greater number of this type of defect. Other defects dealt with were defective showers, water service pipes and floors and leaky sky lights.

#### FOOD INSPECTION

No imported foodstuffs are discharged within the Port Health District. Food on vessels intended for ships' provisions are inspected by officers of the Ministry of Transport.

The only food coming under the Authority's notice is food intended for ships' provisions and temporarily landed into store while a vessel is undergoing repair.

#### The Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) Order, 1951

One Rodent Control Certificate has been issued under



the above Order during the year.

The Public Health (Preservatives etc. in Food) Regulations  
1925-1948

No action necessary.

The Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926

No action necessary.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANK JACKETT

Port Health Inspector.

